UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/770
3 October 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 October 1997 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, calling your attention to a case of interference in the internal affairs of Iraq by the Government of the United Kingdom and pointing out that such hostile British conduct towards Iraq represents a dangerous precedent in the area of international relations and a flagrant breach of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 3 October 1997 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to draw your attention to the statement made to the press by an official spokesman for the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 30 September 1997, which was as follows:

> "Yesterday we hosted a meeting with members of leading Iraqi opposition groups. We assured the Iraqi opposition that British policy towards Iraq had not changed under the new Government. We still had serious concerns about the danger that the Iraqi regime represents to the region and to the Iraqi people. All agreed on the desirability of expanded future meetings."

This statement constitutes an official acknowledgement by the Foreign Office of attempts by the British Government to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs with a view to overthrowing its national Government, undermining its security and stability, encroaching on its sovereignty and destroying its national unity. Such hostile conduct towards Iraq on the part of the United Kingdom further constitutes a dangerous precedent in the area of international relations, representing as it does a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a display of contempt for the principles and norms of international law and for all the conventions and covenants governing relations between States.

This action by the United Kingdom, constituting as it does a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security and to respect for the sovereignty of States and the dignity of their peoples, makes it imperative for the Organization to meet its responsibility to oppose such practices and to prevent the dangerous consequences to which they may give rise.

In urging the United Nations to meet its responsibilities, the Government of Iraq regards the British Government as bearing full international responsibility for the consequences of these unlawful practices. It affirms Iraq's prerogative to defend its sovereignty, its legitimate right to choose its own political system, the integrity of its sovereign territory and the security of its people.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs